

Analysis



analysis | əˈnaləsis |

noun (pl. **-ses** | -sēz |)

detailed examination of the elements or structure of something, typically as a basis for discussion or interpretation : *statistical analysis* | *an analysis of popular culture*.

- the process of separating something into its constituent elements. Often contrasted with **synthesis** .

Write a well-developed short essay that answers the following question:

How does the author use literary devices to characterize _____?

claim + support = argument

DECIDE ON YOUR CLAIM (how is the person characterized?) AND FIND SPECIFIC SUPPORT (what literary devices are used?)

direct characterization

indirect characterization

(actions, speech, thoughts, relationships with others)

diction choices

chosen details

setting

conflicts

point of view

symbolism

Introduction

- Provides brief 'hook' that sets up the context for your response and suggests a fresh approach
- Mentions the title and author of the work you are analyzing *(short story titles go in quotes)*
- States your response to the prompt (CLAIM)
- Accurately previews the techniques to be discussed

Illustrating detail

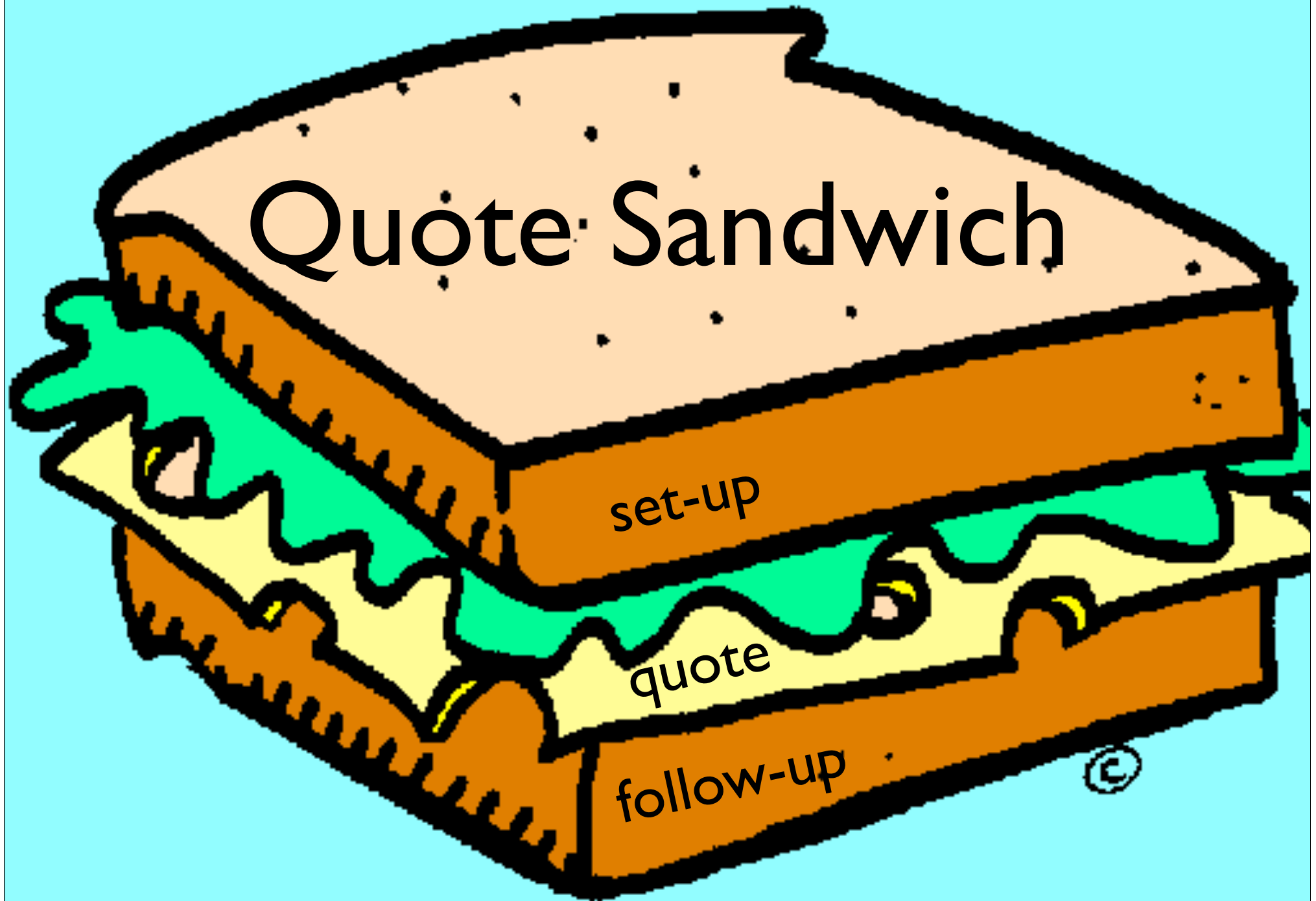
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SUPPORT

Choosing illustrating detail

- When appropriate, paraphrase long episode rather than quoting
- When appropriate, use full sentence quotes
- When appropriate, weave small snatches of text into your own sentences
- Always provide commentary that makes the significance clear
- Never end paragraph with a quote

Quote Sandwich



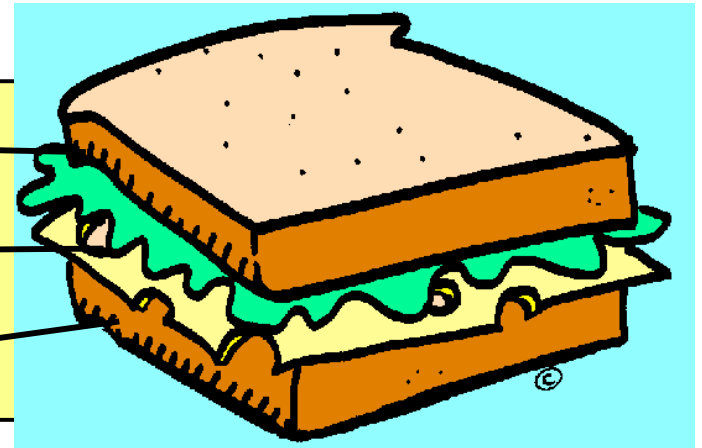
Quote Sandwiches

Topic sentence (thesis sentence or subpoint to support thesis for longer response)

Sentence setting up idea

Quote or detail from source

Follow up (what does this quote show?)



Repeat quote sandwiches as necessary to layer in observations from multiple places within the texts. Choose details chronologically or thematically.

End with concluding sentence that summarizes importance of the idea overall (What does this show about the story? Why is it important?).

Conflicts in this story give the reader an image of Elethia's being quite able. "The carefully burned Uncle Albert to ashes in the incinerator" is an action Elethia takes after discovering Uncle Albert is actually a stuffed human. Technically, Elethia was stealing, but it did not stop her at all. In fact, she succeeded in her mission showing her capability in taking action and thus overcoming a person vs. society conflict. Furthermore in the story she develops a secretive side. "She became secretive, wary, looking over her shoulder at the slightest noise." This shows she understands that her actions were dangerous. While she may feel uneasy she still knows what to do and to take precautions. By doing so she wins her person vs. person conflict.

Another way the author characterized Mrs. Mallard is through her own actions and thoughts in the story. We get an interesting insight into her thoughts as she processes the news of her husband's death. This is especially true in the 10th and 11th paragraphs, where she is battling with herself, and then suddenly gives up, and realizes she feels relieved and happy that her husband is dead. She becomes filled with a "monstrous joy" at her newfound freedom and independence, which has been hiding there all along, but was subdued by her husband's presence. The story also says, "And yet she had loved him - sometimes. Often she had not. What did it matter!" She has moved on past the tragic event and is now determined to live a long life full of freedom, which we know she does not actually achieve.

Sequencing

Consider appropriate order of points. Is there a way you can order the ideas so that one leads into the next into the next? Don't choose three techniques and discuss them as if they were unrelated. Build forward momentum toward the big picture.

- Do you start with details clear at the beginning of the essay, and then move into techniques from the middle of the essay, and then discuss how the essay concludes?
- Do you start with big obvious techniques and then move into smaller, more subtle techniques?
- Does discussion of one technique suggest moving into a related one?

Conclusion

- Do not simply restate introduction; move beyond your earlier preview
- Suggest overall significance to the use and effectiveness of these rhetorical strategies. Why is it important?
- Provide closure

Use of first person

“ ”

NOT “In the following essay, I will talk about...”

NOT “I think”

Only if it’s ‘powerful’

“Even though the foreshadowing was meant to prepare me for it, Chopin’s sudden twist at the end surprised me.”

Write a well-developed short essay that answers the following question:

How does the author, Sandra Cisneros, use literary devices to characterize Rachel?

claim + support = argument

DECIDE ON YOUR CLAIM (how is Rachel characterized?) AND FIND SPECIFIC SUPPORT (what literary devices are used?)

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indirect characterization

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